



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 May 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 MAY 1968

1. Panama

Announcement of the official returns of Sunday's election has been postponed following violence in the capital yesterday. Mob attacks broke out as supporters of opposition leader Arias retaliated for a shooting involving partisans of Samudio, the government candidate. Both contenders are claiming victory on the basis of their own widely differing unofficial tallies.

2. Czechoslovakia

There has been no substantial change in the Czechoslovak-Soviet situation.

In Prague, Dubcek and his colleagues are restating, in low key, their intent to pursue their reform program.

3. North Korea

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4. Communist China

Recent satellite photography of the Shuang-Cheng-Tzu missile test center shows work under way on two new tactical or submarine missile systems.

Little progress is evident, however, in the medium-range missile program. Also, the ICBM launch area is still torn up, and major modifications under way there mean that ICBM testing is postponed for several months.

5. Indonesia

President Suharto is again feeling the rough edge of public criticism. His recent effort to reduce subsidies of petroleum products and public utilities by raising their prices has led to other price increases, particularly of textiles and rice. All this has brought renewed grumblings from the politicians and from student groups.

Some anti-inflationary measures planned for this year have already been postponed because of these political pressures. Suharto may also find it necessary to silence some of his critics by offering them posts in the new cabinet to be formed by early July.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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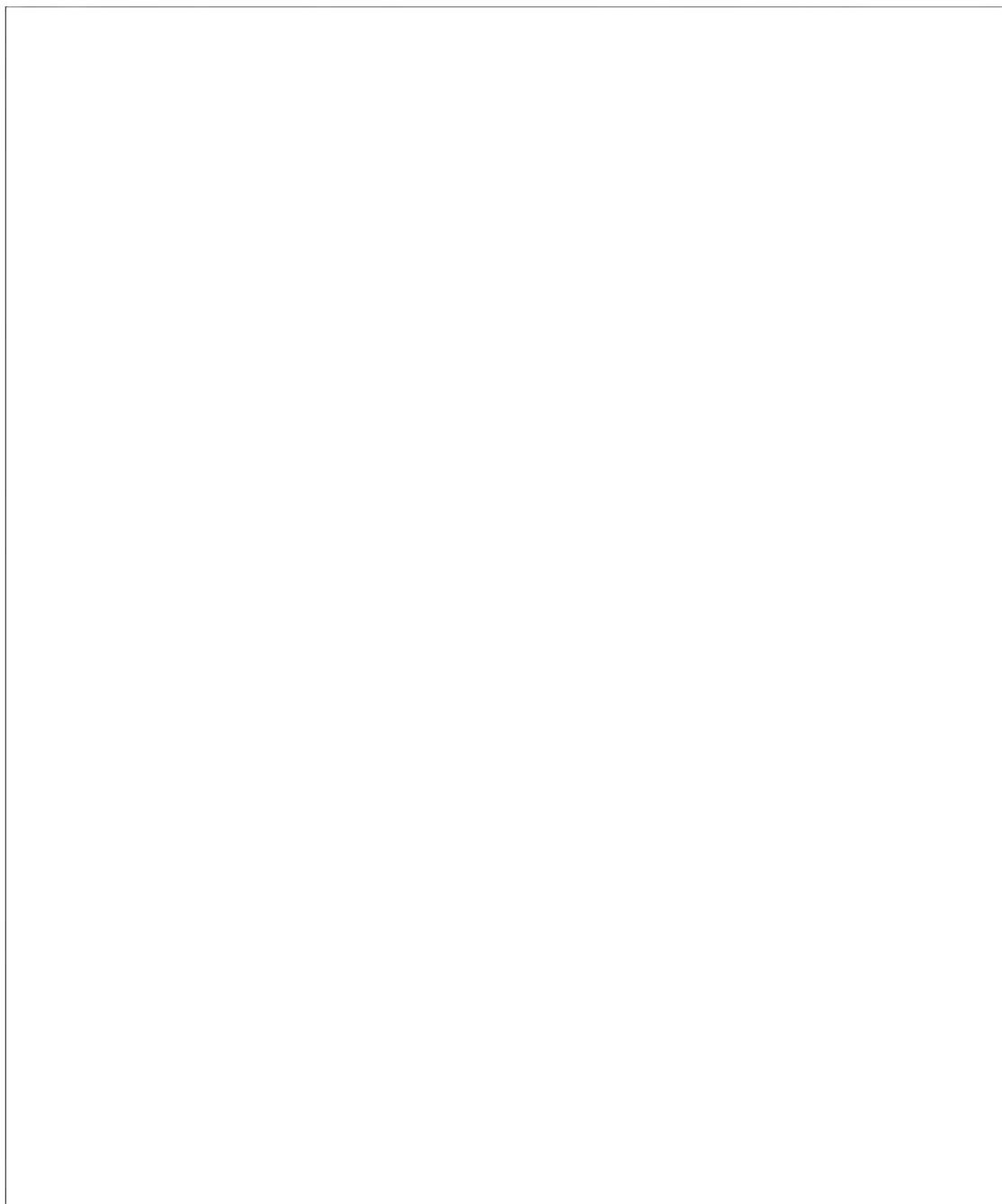
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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Claims New Victories in South: Hanoi's International Service in English on 11 and 12 May broadcast editorials praising the People's Liberation Armed Forces for having created a "new development in the new situation" in South Vietnam through their concerted attacks over the last several days.

The editorials spoke of significant victories throughout the country. They singled out for special praise, however, the fighters in the Saigon area for their "daring, successful attacks," and claimed that they had seized and now controlled many quarters of Saigon after decimating their opposition.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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